

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2018

Source
CSHJR 19(AET)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
26



Commending the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee; supporting the adoption of prevention measures into international agreements to ensure clear, universal, and enforceable marine safety measures in the Arctic; urging the state's delegation in the United States Congress and the governor to promote the adoption of spill prevention measures into international agreements; and urging the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to initiate negotiations to enter into international agreements to ensure safe and environmentally responsible marine operations in the Arctic.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee has been formed by marine mammal hunting groups, Arctic municipalities, and Arctic marine ship operators to identify and promote safe and environmentally responsible shipping operations in the Arctic; and

WHEREAS, because of the lack of spill response capacity in the Arctic, the United States Coast Guard has authorized vessels to adopt spill prevention measures in lieu of

meeting the response standard; and

WHEREAS, even under the best circumstances, only 20 percent of spilled oil is recovered, indicating the importance of spill prevention measures; and

WHEREAS prevention measures include active vessel tracking and monitoring, prescribed routing measures, immediate notification of a loss of vessel power or steering, identification of vessels nearby with an opportunity to respond, identification of ports of refuge, prepositioning towing packages and ship arrestors, and dynamic protection of local marine mammal resources; and

WHEREAS prevention measures apply only to vessels calling on a port in the United States; and

WHEREAS vessels not calling on a port in the United States are considered in innocent passage and not subject to prevention measures; and

WHEREAS the United States has not ratified the Law of the Sea treaty and accordingly may not use Article 234, which authorizes coastal states with "ice-covered areas" to require special protection measures; and

WHEREAS universal adherence to marine protection measures in the Arctic may also occur through international bilateral agreements or by the adoption of measures in the Polar Code of the International Maritime Organization;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature commends the formation of the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee and appreciates its leadership in establishing safe shipping practices in state water; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the adoption of prevention measures into international agreements to ensure clear, universal, and enforceable marine safety measures in the Arctic; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the state's Congressional delegation to promote the adoption of spill prevention measures into international agreements with member organizations, including the Northern Forum; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to initiate negotiations with Alaska's coastal neighbors to enter into international agreements to ensure safe and environmentally responsible marine operations in the Arctic.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 115th United States Congress.